



*(C) Subsequent to the interview, or responsive to the examiner's first action if no interview was had, applicant will file the "record" reply. The reply at this stage, to be proper, must be restricted to the rejections, objections, and requirements made. Any amendment which would require broadening the search field will be treated as an improper reply.*

(D) The examiner will, within 1 month from the date of receipt of applicant's formal reply, take up the application for final disposition. This disposition will constitute either a final action which terminates with the setting of a 3-month period for reply, or a notice of allowance. The examiner's reply to any amendment submitted after final rejection should be prompt and by way of form PTOL-303, by passing the application to issue, or by an examiner's answer should applicant choose to file an appeal brief at this time. The use of these forms is not intended to open the door to further prosecution. Of course, where relatively minor issues or deficiencies might be easily resolved, the examiner may use the telephone to inform the applicant of such.


(E) A personal interview after a final Office action will not be permitted unless requested by the examiner. However, telephonic interviews will be permitted where appropriate for the purpose of correcting any minor outstanding matters.

After allowance, these applications are given top priority for printing. See MPEP §1309.

[Emphasis added]

Applicants are advised that once a request has been granted, prosecution will proceed according to the procedures stated above. There is no provision for withdrawal from special status. It is noted that an Office action was mailed on July 12, 2004. Applicants attention is called to section (C) since any reply to the non-final action which is filed subsequent to the mail date of this decision must be a "record" reply and must avoid amendments which would require broadening the search filed or it will be treated as being improper if no interview was held.

The application is being forwarded to the examiner to await the filing of applicants' amendment. Thereafter, prosecution of the application will proceed according to the procedure set forth in MPEP 708.02(VIII).



Josie A. Ballato

Special Programs Examiner

Technology Center 2100

Computer Architecture, Software, and Information Security

(703) 308-0269